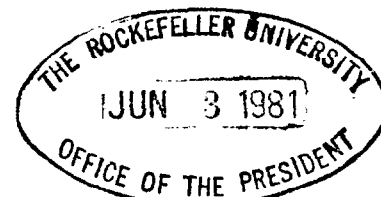


RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
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26 May, 1981

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Office of the President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

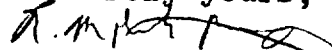
Many thanks for your memo of 22 April. As you can see, the delay in my response was due to my leave here in Australia.

Cellulose synthesis in humans certainly is an interesting prospect. No, no additional work on this has been published, but I have been interested in following up on this. Last year I had a very capable biochemist want to do a post-doctoral with me and Professor H. Stanley Bennett on Scleroderma, but he was not granted the fellowship. Do you think the NIH might be interested? If the tunicates can make cellulose, I see no reason why humans cannot produce it.

Cellulose synthesis seems ubiquitous. I have recently been examining cellulose synthesis in Rhizobium. I have good reason to believe that cellulose synthesis is an essential step toward the establishment of the host-symbiotic nitrogen fixation nodule. It is turning out that bacterial cellulose synthesis is more widespread than believed, and what an interesting system to follow the molecular genetics! I believe that I can see why you might be interested in the process!

I am really very sorry that I cannot provide more help in this matter, but I will keep you informed on any news I may happen to come across. Under separate cover, I will send you some reprints of our work. Do keep in touch, and thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely yours,


R. Malcolm Brown, Jr.

Will be in Australia until 21 August, 1981

